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My Brother Hunts beyond Me

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MY BROTHER HUNTS BEYOND ME
(for Michael)

On the monument above the river
the boys from school play tag

all noon. I am hungry
for you on the other side of the river—

beyond the cliffs and the rollercoaster
swooping above them:

for you are learning how to kill
animals in a barn, in the woods,

and I am only learning to write
about the dragon and the knight.

You come home at times, and once
I am taken to visit you,

but you are always running away,
and I can never catch you,

and now between my castle and your
tent all the waters in the world

seem to spread—no white birds
swooping above them.